

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 Electronic mail software includes a main email component and
2 a number installable components. The installable components
3 include authoring/reading components for creating/reading
4 different kinds of documents and mailbox components for listing
5 different kinds of messages or for listing messages in different
6 styles. The main email component provides an underlying graphical
7 user interface for functions directly associated with the storage
8 and transfer of electronic mail messages, and also handles all
9 data bundling and unbundling required to transform a message
10 created by an authoring component into a MIME compliant message.
11 The authoring/reading components act like applications embedded
12 within the email program and allow specific types of documents
13 such as spreadsheets, graphics, databases, etc. to be created from
14 within the email program and emailed directly. The
15 authoring/reading components also allow received documents to be
16 read without the difficulties traditionally associated with
17 attaching binary files to an email letter. The authoring
18 components of the invention pass data to the main email component
19 which packages the data as a MIME compliant message. When the
20 message is received, the main email component concatenates and
21 decodes the MIME message and sends the data to the
22 authoring/reading component associated with the MIME type.